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CSM Orchestra goes
"John Denver"
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NON-Geek of the Week
"Raging parties at Mines are nothing like the parties at CU or CSU, but Mines kids still have a good time."
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COURTESY SCOTT GREENSIDES

Rock on. CRU students take on Mt. Bierstadt for the annual "Challenge."

Mines students conquer Bierstadt

Ben Makuh
Staff Writer

"Everyone thinks '14er, no big deal,' until you actually climb it," said Matt Bolt. "Especially at midnight." Last Thursday, over 60 Mines students geared up and climbed Mt. Bierstadt, a 14,000 foot peak south of Georgetown.

The event, hosted by Campus Crusade for Christ, is called the "Cru Challenge" and is basically an opportunity for students to get out and do something crazy and take a break from their school work. "The big thing is just getting out, climbing a mountain, and meeting people you might not necessarily meet in the dorms," said Bolt, one of the coordinators for this year's climb.

The goal was to climb by the light of the full moon, but unfortunately the hike was postponed one week due to thunderstorms in the area. About two-thirds of those

who attempted the climb summited, gaining almost 2,400 feet in elevation from the base. "It was cool, it was crazy. Probably not the smartest thing, but definitely a ton of fun," said Ryan Decker.

Even though the event was organized by Campus Crusade, all students, regardless of their association with the organization, were invited to climb too. And many did, such as freshman Matt Lemke who said, "I thought it was really awesome that they invited me, even though I'm not really going to be involved with the club, because it was really cool. I love hiking."

While the climbing of the mountain is quite difficult, some would say the real challenge occurs the next day as students struggle to not fall asleep in their classes. "The challenge is to stay awake during every lecture you have on Friday," said Drew Meyer. "That's the really hard part."

Clicking for a reason

Can involved learning be used in upper-level physics courses?

Benjamin M. Weilert
Staff Writer

When students at Mines take introductory Physics, they often wonder why they have to take "studio" or answer clicker questions. According to a lecture given by Steven Pollock on September 23, these activities help the students learn the material better. The lecture focused on this same style being applied in the smaller upper-level Physics courses.

"What is learning? How does it happen?" asked Pollock, who performed research on educational techniques at the University of Colorado at Boulder. Learning can be very complex, as each individual student will learn in a slightly different fashion. When compared with traditional teaching techniques, the more involved approaches that require student participation show a greater percentage of students learning.

"Perhaps changing the way you teach can have a measurable and consistent impact," said Pollock. "You learn a lot when you do these clicker questions." When clickers are used, students debate with each other and arrive at a conceptual understanding of the problem.

The question now is whether or not one could apply that same teaching style to upperclassmen.

When juniors, who had taken elementary electromagnetic Physics, were given the same exit poll test as the freshmen, they didn't score much better than the underclassmen. It turns out the upperclassmen were more concerned about the complex ideas, and not about the founding principles. "They can't answer basic, fundamental conceptual questions," said Pollock.

With the addition of interactive programs to higher-level Physics courses, the purpose is to increase the understanding of the conceptual problems. One aspect of this program is homework help sessions, where, as Pollock said, "we were focused very much on not showing students how to solve problems." The idea is to understand how the problems are solved and not to just spoon-feed solutions to the students.

The biggest part of enabling this program comes from the professors. Without interaction between the students and the teachers, there is

no insight into what works and what doesn't. "You can't just sit in your office and think about what you should do," said Pollock. When students' input is allowed into a teaching program, all parties will benefit.

Even if there are some good results so far with freshmen, the

"It's not about teaching, it's all about student learning," said Pollock.

transition to upper-level courses will take time and research. "Educational practice is a researchable endeavor," said Pollock. With each semester, data can be taken and transformations to the courses can be made. This transformation will impact content learning and participation. As it is still new, development for materials, resources and assessment instruments is under constant work.

In the end, the reasoning behind courses is not about professors showing how much they know, but enabling students to learn as much as possible. "It's not about teaching, it's all about student learning," said Pollock. If both basic-level and higher-level Physics courses can facilitate a greater absorption of knowledge, then there is no doubt its students will be better prepared for further learning and real life situations.

ASCSM encourages debate, dialogue

Patrick Beseda
Staff Writer

The Associated Students of the Colorado School of Mines (ASCSM) have taken a turn for the social, introducing new channels of feedback and student participation at last week's meeting.

Marked by an odd sense of humor in the room, the meeting saw the discussion of several important topics, including the way they address student issues and opinions. ASCSM also offered a raffle to entice students to attend the meetings. Kevin Duffy, Student Body President, announced a new item to be placed on every ASCSM meeting agenda, the "public comment forum."

This new forum will serve as an arena for students to ask questions and have their opinions heard by the governing body of the student population. In addition, *The Oredigger Newspaper's* website now offers a section devoted to receiving and answering questions and comments directed at the ASCSM.

The first incarnation of ASCSM's

public forum saw a lively dialogue between the audience and representatives. Sam Kreimeyer started the discussion by denouncing the current prices of textbooks; the ensuing discussion included legal issues, contracts with booksellers and consistency of material across departments. The debate came to a firm close, however, when Kreimeyer mentioned under his breath that "The Office" would be

on in five minutes and promptly left the room without a word.

To many on the council, the remainder of the comments were well thought-out

and insightful. Issues with public transportation, the intermodal transportation fees and recycling and composting of materials on campus were all raised and discussed thoroughly.

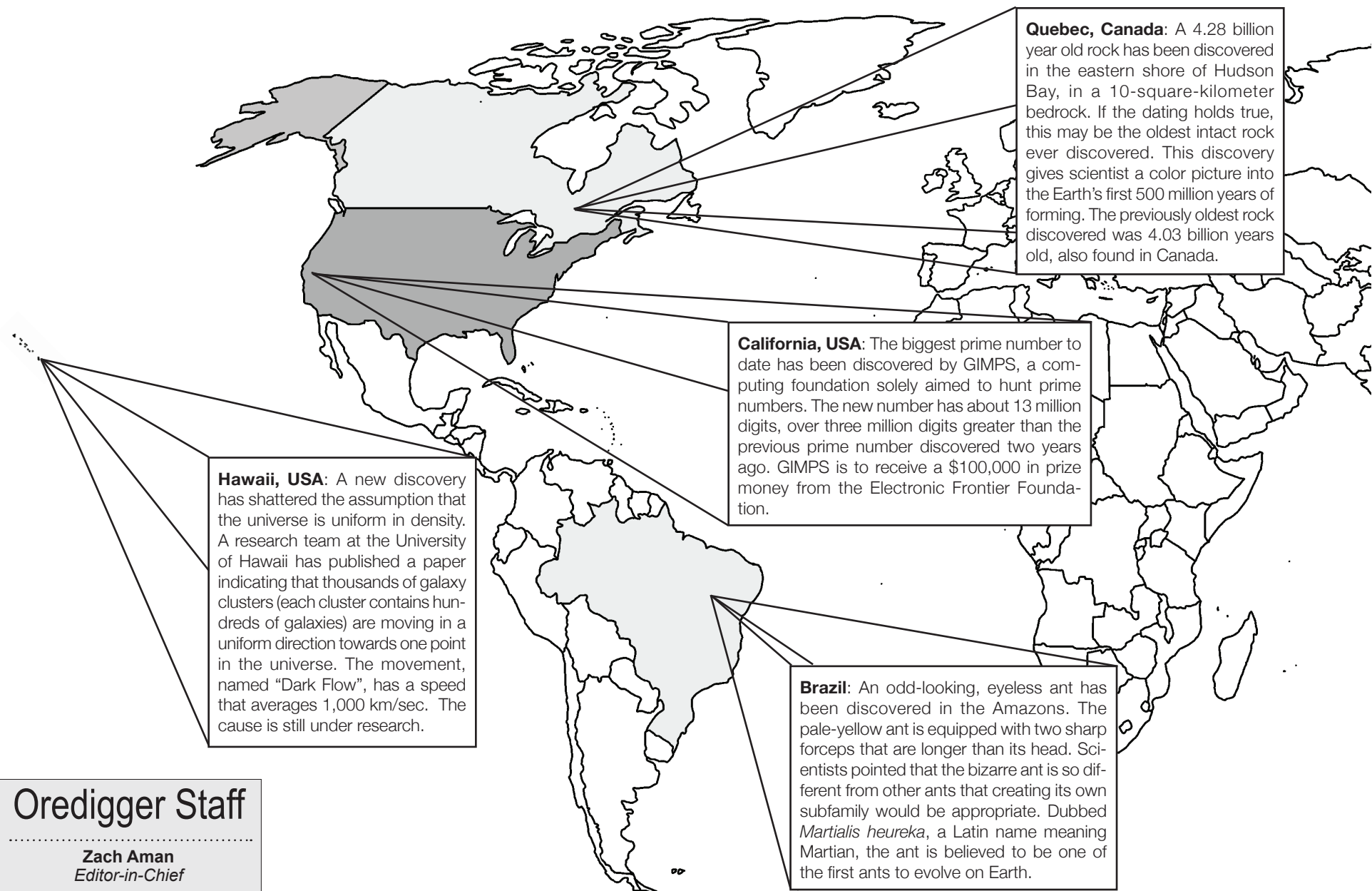
The body spent the better part of the next hour approving the mandatory committee appointments for each member of the council. Dan Baker, President of the Graduate Student Association, spoke out; "Can we make this short?"

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>> Visit oredigger.net to voice your opinion on the ASCSM Forum! <<

Scientific discoveries this week

Abdullah Ahmed, Asst. Business Manager



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Headlines from around the world

Emily Trudell, Staff Writer

The **United States Marine Corps** revisited their policy on the appropriateness of **tattoos**, outlawing those with large, visible tattoos from serving as recruiters or guards at United States Embassies.

Presidential candidates **Barack Obama** and **John McCain** faced off in their first **debate**, arguing over economy, foreign policy, war, and other pertinent issues.

Former Denver Broncos football player **John Elway** announced his engagement to 41-year-old former Oakland Raiders cheerleader Paige Green during their trip to Italy last week.

Typhoon Sinlaku reached **Taiwan** early in the week and travelled north up the country, dumping rain on the area.

Senator **Edward Kennedy**, who has brain cancer and had a stroke last May, was taken to the hospital near his Cape Cod vacation home, but was released within a few hours.

China launched a three-man mission in the **Shenzhou 7** spacecraft, to complete the country's **first spacewalk** and third manned space mission.

North Korea made a step toward restarting its **nuclear weapons** program when it expelled UN officers from its plutonium processing plant and announced plans to reopen the plant.

Three members of the Zetas, one of the competing **drug groups** in Mexico, were arrested after a grenade attack that left at least 106 people injured, and eight dead.

A tropical storm in the North Atlantic, Kyle, has gained power, and could become a **hurricane** by the time it reaches the coastline.

The **European Union** banned baby formulas that contained Chinese milk products after a series of **toxic chemicals** were leaked into Chinese food products.

Austria became the first nation in the European Union to allow **sixteen-year-old** citizens voting rights.

Apple announced its plans to make **iTunes** more accessible for blind users, making the program activated by voice commands and allowing for blind people to "read" the

internet with vocal websites.

Four elementary school students in Indiana were killed when their **school bus** collided with a truck on the ride home from Friday classes.

Venezuelan President **Hugo Chavez** visited with Russian President **Dmitry Medvedev** in Orenburg, Russia to discuss an arms trade between Russia and Venezuela.

The southeastern United States struggled with **gas shortages** and empty

pumps, caused in part by the recent hurricanes.

South Africa's parliament decided Thursday to appoint **Kgalema Motlanthe** as interim president after current president **Thabo Mbeki** resigned at the request of the African National Congress.

The **United States Center for Disease Control** announced that all children between the ages of six and eighteen should receive the **flu vaccine**, totaling an extra 30 million children.



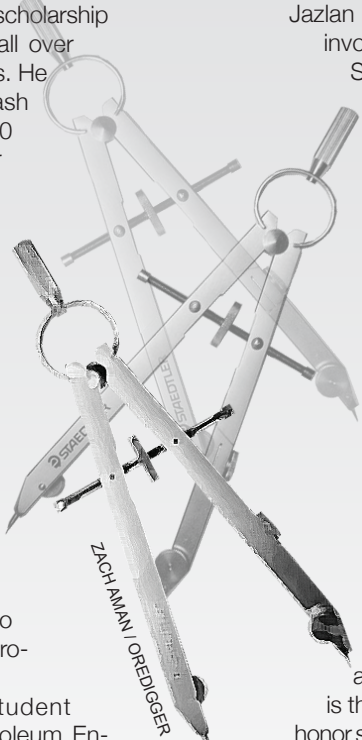
Tau Beta Pi announces scholarship winners

Courtesy Tau Beta Pi

Muhammad Jazlan Zulhaimi, 23, of Colorado School of Mines has been awarded for the 2008-09 year, a scholarship from Tau Beta Pi, an engineering honor society. Jazlan, originally from Malaysia, is one of the selected scholarship recipients from all over the United States. He will receive a cash award of \$2000 for his senior year of engineering study. Tau Beta Pi Scholarships are awarded to junior members on a competitive basis of high scholarship, campus leadership and service, with promising prospects of future contributions to the engineering profession.

An honor student majoring in Petroleum Engineering at Colorado School of Mines, Jazlan is the President of Malaysian Student Association; a member of Tau Beta Pi honor society, a member of Pi Epsilon Tau honor society; was the Vice President of Pi Beta Delta International Honorary Society; and was the Vice President of Muslim Student Association. In terms of academic endeavours, Jazlan has been consistently maintaining a Dean's List

achievement in the last 3 years at Colorado School of Mines. Apart from that, Jazlan had previously received a number of awards and scholarships from the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE), and the American Association of Drilling Engineers (AADE). Also, Jazlan has been actively involved in Intramural Sports organized at Colorado School of Mines. Tau Beta Pi is the world's largest engineering honor society. Membership represents the highest honor to be obtained by an engineering student and is awarded on the basis of high scholarship and exemplary character. Tau Beta Pi is the only engineering honor society representing the entire engineering profession. It is the nation's second-oldest honor society, founded at Lehigh University in 1885 to recognize students of distinguished academic and personal achievements. There are now 234 collegiate chapters in colleges and universities all over the United States with active alumnus chapters in 16 districts across the country, and a total initiated membership of 500,906.



Million dollar baby

CSM sees a glittering geo-soiree

Sophie Hancock
Staff Writer

Last week, an exciting and mysterious invite to an "Anadarko Reception" was circulated for a "presentation and announcement" on Thursday evening at the Geology Museum. Bob Daniels, Anadarko senior vice president of Worldwide Exploration, presented a check for \$1 million from The Anadarko Foundation at a reception widely attended by alumni, faculty and students. The Anadarko Foundation, a nonprofit organization operated by Anadarko Petroleum Corporation for educational and charitable purposes, made a \$1 million gift to the Colorado School of Mines Foundation. The foundation slated \$500,000 for the construction of Marquez Hall, a new petroleum engineering facility, and the other \$500,000 is for CSM's Department of Geology and Geological Engineering. Anadarko's gift brings total funds raised for the school's state-of-the-art petroleum facility, Marquez Hall, to more than \$20 million, propelling Mines toward its \$25 million goal for the first phase of the building and an anticipated spring 2009 groundbreaking. The company's additional \$500,000 commitment will strengthen geology and geological engineering at Mines, funding up to ten new graduate fellowships, student travel and fieldwork, as well as departmental needs and initiatives. The gift will also establish the Anadarko Petroleum Lecture Series at Mines.

"The Mines community is proud to count Anadarko as one of its most loyal corporate partners," said President M. W. "Bill" Scoggins. "Such a remarkable commitment extends the school's capabilities in areas critical to the energy industry, and helps to strengthen our international reputation as a top-tier teaching and research environment in engineering and the applied sciences." Daniels spoke after President Scoggins, saying, "Colorado School of Mines has been producing top-quality geoscientists and petroleum engineers directly benefiting our industry for more than a century." Dr. Ramona Graves and Dr. John Humphrey represented the receiving departments to explain how this strategic partnership with Anadarko will shape the invested programs. Several of the Anadarko representatives present were former Mines students, and they spoke after the presentation with great affection for the school which trained them and so many of their other recruits; Daniels was no exception, having graduated in '85 with a petroleum geology master's degree from Mines. "People are the foundation of our success and Anadarko employs nearly 100 geoscience and engineering graduates of Colorado School of Mines, so I can attest to the crucial role that the university is playing in developing the talented individuals so key to our industry's ability to continue finding and producing energy resources vital to the world's health and welfare," said Jim Kleckner, Anadarko vice president

of the Rocky Mountain Region, and petroleum engineering Mines graduate. "We are delighted to broaden our long-standing partnership with Colorado School of Mines through this gift and enhance the outstanding educational opportunities the university makes possible." Scott Moore, VP for Gas Markets for Anadarko, was another former CSM student – from the Mineral Economics program. Moore recommended that those students who love Colorado and might want to stay in the region long term should approach Anadarko for internships and job appointments; they have a large local workforce, including nearly 700 people in downtown Denver. Anadarko Petroleum Corporation is among the largest independent natural gas and oil exploration and production companies in the world. The company's major areas of operation are located onshore in the U.S. Rocky Mountain and Southern regions, the Gulf of Mexico and Algeria. As one of the largest natural gas producers in northeast Colorado, the clean-burning natural gas Anadarko produces in the state is delivered to homes and businesses along the Front Range, supplying a total of seven million homes. Anadarko recognizes its commitment to maintain the balance between protecting the environment, public health and communities while producing energy resources vital to the world. To learn more about Anadarko, visit www.anadarko.com.

CSM and the real C.S.I.

Jason Fish
Content Manager

"You will never see anyone this good-looking, or this well-dressed, in a real forensics case." These were the words of Professional Engineer Bastiaan Cornelissen as he referenced a cast photo of the primetime television program, "CSI: Miami." For the unknowing reader, the show features one-hour criminal investigation storylines, and the myriad methods used by the characters to solve them. Cornelissen used this example in his Thursday presentation to the Materials and Metallurgical Engineering (MME) Department Seminar, entitled "Forensic Engineering: The Role of the Engineer in the Legal System." He is an MME alumnus (Ph.D '00) and associate with Structural Integrity Associates, a national engineering consulting firm. The talk focused on how engineers, like the students in the room, could be involved in court cases, civil suits, or just to determine if car A hit car B at what speed and with what force. "It could be [investigating] a string of failed parts from a company, but most likely it will involve litigation," said Cornelissen. The bulk of the lecture laid out the procedures in an incident or accident investigation, and how an engineer for forensic expert is involved. These steps go from evidence gathering

and documentation to report writing, depositions, and trial appearances. Cornelissen also spoke about inconsistency and credibility issues in the expert witness system, the current relationship between engineers and attorneys. "Unfortunately, the bar for qualifying to be an expert witness is extremely low," said Cornelissen. According to the accepted definition, an expert witness must be able to demonstrate more knowledge on a given subject than the public at large possesses. "After your first week in a Materials Science education, you already know more than the general public," said Cornelissen. According to Cornelissen, the key to the problems in the system is the lack of accountability and standardization in expert witness reports before they are presented to a court, or used in consultation. Among several examples of bad reports and inconsistent findings, he cited the 1919 Boston Molasses Tank Failure, where a 2 million-gallon storage tank failed, killing many workers. The case was so prominent that the federal government sent an auditor to report on how the expert witnesses involved determined the cause and culprit of the disaster. Cornelissen quoted one of the auditor's remarks, saying that "[he] found himself so confused that the only rock he could cling to was the obvious fact that half the scientists must be wrong." "What can we do as engineers

to approach these problems consistently?" asked Cornelissen. He suggested the need to write reports appropriately for the intended audience, usually a jury, how these documents must be as thoroughly inclusive as possible, and that the importance of peer review could not be overstressed. "Make sure physical evidence matches your opinions," said Cornelissen. "Experiments are great, and you have to know the errors associated with your calculations." Cornelissen finished by addressing the ethical obligations of expert witnesses and how the environment of deposition (pre-trial) and trial appearances treat an engineer or scientist. "Your job is to tell, to the best of your ability, what happened." He said that while there is a tendency to want to please clients, expert witnesses must resist these feelings, in the name of upholding their own reputations and that of their profession. "He has turned forensics into an art form," said Dr. David Olson of the MME Department, who made the introduction for Cornelissen. "We see him frequently down in the [Electron] Microscopy Lab with groups of engineers, working on [consulting] projects," said John Chandler, researcher and lecturer in the MME laboratory. Chandler commented on how interesting it is to watch them study their samples and apply the available technologies in their casework.



Oredigger Newspaper staff members Zach Aman, Hilary Brown, Josh Elliott and Jason Fish participated in the New York Times' *Caucus LiveBlog* over the first presidential debate. Colorado School of Mines was one of only 20 schools nationwide that was asked to be a part of the forum. Above, the group awaits each candidate's response to energy questions. Below, group members prepare a forum post regarding US energy policy and current research at CSM.

PHOTOS BREE WALTMAN / OREDIGGER



Let's do the Time Warp again!

Movies for Thought shows *Rocky Horror Picture Show*

Benjamin M. Weilert
Staff Writer

It's not every day that Colorado School of Mines students get to sing along with a transsexual actor.

It was a dark and cloudy night as students congregated in Berthoud Hall last Friday to watch the cult classic movie, *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*. Sigma Lambda, CSM Democrats and Mines Libertarians organized the event, as part of their ongoing "Movies for Thought" series. Some students were intrigued by the mystique this movie holds. "What is *Rocky Horror*?" asked Chris Metcalf.

The Rocky Horror Picture Show falls into the exclusive category of cult film, due to its notoriety for audience participation. Most showings of this movie attract fans who dress up as characters from the film. Other participation items include "Call Backs," which involve the audience shouting out lines that are responded to by the actors on the

screen.

Perhaps the most entertaining audience participation is with the props. Among the items, which are thrown at appropriate points during the movie, are toast, water, toilet paper, hot dogs, underwear and rice. Finally, audience members will often get up and do the dance referred to as the "Time Warp," which provides for just as much, if not more, entertainment than what is going on in the movie.

Denver does not appear to have an organized cult showing for *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*, partly due to the somewhat rigorous cleanup that happens after the movie from all the props that have been thrown. Even so, the showing at Friday's event was excellent, despite the lack of true devotees to the cult nature.

Quite a few students had yet to even see the movie. "I haven't seen it before," mentioned Nick Lubbers. Still, there were many who knew the movie and were there to participate. "I just want to do the 'Time Warp,'" said Kate Reinking. The "Time Warp" was one of the few participation items in which many of the attendees danced away to. Many also knew most of the lines to the movie and could be heard reciting them along with the actors.

There were others that came to the event and could still not figure out this movie. "The writers were high and somehow it became successful," said

Rob Beamer. "How else would you explain this?" Admittedly, the plot was strange and sparse, to make room for the 15 songs liberally applied through the film.

The plot of *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* follows Brad Majors (Barry Bostwick) and Janet Weiss (Susan Sarandon) as they try to get help after their car breaks down. Unwittingly, the newly-engaged couple comes upon the castle of Dr. Frank-N-Furter (Tim Curry), who has found the secret to

life and creates Rocky Horror (Peter Hinwood) in a fashion similar to *Frankenstein*. Things just get stranger from there until the entire castle finally disappears.

As is the tradition with the "Movies for Thought" series, students were encouraged to stay after the movie and talk about issues that the movie brought up. "If you'd like to stay and talk about transsexuals, you're welcome [to]," said student L. B. Williams.



HILARY BROWN / OREDIGGER

CSM Orchestra shows flair

Sophie Hancock
Staff Writer

Below the normally quiet Bunker Auditorium, a storm of musical proportions is brewing.

Two weeks ago, about thirty students from the Colorado School of Mines orchestra congregated for a jam session, led by conductor and adjunct professor Stephen Weidner, to practice for future performances in tribute to John Denver.

Fans of Denver's music will soon be amazed by Dutch John Denver tribute musician John Adams who, with his band, will put on some joint performances with the CSM orchestra. There are several plans afoot for putting together the concert, with students assisting in the musical arrangement of increasingly stellar shows. Coordinators hope to ultimately land the group at Red Rocks Amphitheatre.

This introductory session was arranged so that orchestra members could meet their new, internationally acclaimed co-stars.

The orchestra warmed up and played three classical pieces: Beethoven's "Egmont Overture", Tartini-Bonelli's "Concerto No. 58" and a rendition of the third movement from Warlock's "Six Italian Dances". The privileged few to witness applauded loudly, while Adams and his band spoke warmly of the obvious collective talent.

Next it was Adams' turn to put on a show – and star-quality clearly shined through. Adams was at ease before the crowd, telling jokes while introducing himself and the band. In total, Adams played five numbers: "Eagles and Horses", "Country Girl in Paris, Whispering Jesse", "Dreamland Express" and "Rocky Mountain High". Rich sounds filled the room and most of the orchestra had their feet tapping, marking the official beginning to their collaborative

musical journey.

To be involved in such an ambitious project will be exciting for CSM students, but it will also provide great opportunities for the future. Adams, whose Dutch name is Jos van den Brom, came to major public fame in 1988 after winning a John Denver TV impersonation contest, a forerunner program to today's talent equivalent of *American Idol*, called *Soundmixshow*. Since the musical victory, Adams appeared on television with the real John Denver, while he was on his five-leg concert tour that year.

Denver referred to Adams as "the guy who sounds just like me," and many in the audience could not have agreed more. Adams has been performing Denver's music since the 1970s. Today, Adams lives in Silverthorne and performs all over the world.

Two members of Adams' band attended the first session: Willie Hoevers and Tim Stroud. Hoevers is part musical agent and part bass player for the group, while Stroud plays keyboard and reinforces the vocals. Adams regularly plays in a group of up to seven, drawing on a wide range of musical instrumentation.

The *John Adams Act* has already been performing locally, at a mix of small personal events and larger gigs. In June 2008, they performed at the opening soiree of the Cool River Gallery in Olde Towne Arvada. July 2008 saw Adams in Golden, where he played the Miner's Alley Playhouse.

When not performing, Adams and Hoevers have been toiling away with local State Representatives from Golden to try and get August 1 declared "John Denver Day" in Colorado. August 1 is already "Colorado Day", highly appropriate given that "Rocky Mountain High" is now Colorado's state song. Should these talks blossom, one idea is to have a celebratory concert to acknowledge the honor.

GETTING INVOLVED IN THE CONCERT

CSM Orchestra will need volunteers to help with logistics, including marketing, advertising, finding sponsors and financial backers, lobbying for the "John Denver Day", making auditorium arrangements and more. For those interested in musical engineering, assistance in the form of audio and visual engineering is also a strong possibility. Finally, organizers are considering the idea of offering either music and engineering class credit or work-study hours to arrange and orchestrate the project; students performing in the orchestra can already elect a credit-option for the course.

For more information, please contact conductor Stephen Weidner at sweidner@mines.edu and organizational orchestra member Lisa Fisher at lfisher@mines.edu.

TECH BREAK

Apple iPod touch, 2nd Generation

Ian Littman, Tech Break Columnist

As promised from last week, here's my review of Apple's latest incarnation of the iPhone minus the phone. This review will primarily compare the new iPod touch to the older model and to the iPhone, showing what the difference is between this glorified media player and the now-iconic mobile communicator that is so unfortunately tied to AT&T (with a \$30 data plan requirement per month, no less!).

First off, the new iPod touch is ridiculously thin when compared to anything but the newest iPod nano (which I reviewed last week). The rounded stainless steel back (more resistant to scratching than other iPods have been) just makes it feel smaller. The steel back wraps around to border the front of the iPod, and a plastic window to let the WiFi signal out (which, by my tests, can dispatch data at a decent 4.5 Mbps both ways) is in the top left corner of the back plate. Otherwise, you can't tell the new iPod touch from an iPhone, unless, of course, you look at the back of the device and wonder where the camera went.

The interesting thing about the new iPod touch is that it borrows several more features from the iPhone than the last-gen unit did. Two big ones are a volume control (the original iPod didn't have one on the outside) and a speaker,

cleverly hidden beneath the metal yet still reasonably powerful. This is the same concept as the MacBook Air. Yet there are still some differences between the touch and the iPhone: no Bluetooth, no camera, no vibrate, no built-in mic, and of course no phone. There's also the matter of the iPhone 3G's GPS capabilities; the Touch, predictably, doesn't have any. It does have one feature the iPhone doesn't, however: Nike+ integration. On another good note, the touch, like the new iPhone, plays well with all

a variant of the 2.0 firmware and feels positively meaty in comparison with the svelte iPod touch.

One warning: battery life, while great for casual use, music and video, is not that great when you're playing games. This is to be expected, since the iPod touch seems to me to put out a better picture than emanated from a quick look at a Nintendo DS or two, but it's something to keep in mind when you see additional battery accessories for the unit.

With that one reservation, and with experience of plenty of PDAs, music players and three of the four iPhone look-alikes (haven't played with the 3G iPhone), I have to say that the iPod touch is arguably not only the best music player that I've laid my hands on, but also a very capable PDA. That's despite Apple's willy-nilly rejection of applications from their store that would be quite useful for the device.

Thanks to the Mines bookstore for letting me borrow their demo unit of the iPod touch (as well as their iPod nano demo) so soon after it came out. They sell all of Apple's iPod family (except for the red iPod nano); the 8GB, 16GB and 32GB why-isn't-this-an-iPhone-model versions are respectively \$229, \$299 and \$399. So if you want to live large and can shell out the necessary cash to do so, the iPod touch is your media player, web browser and, erm, lightsaber of choice.

"I have to say that the iPod touch is arguably not only the best music player that I've laid my hands on, but also a very capable PDA."

headphones, including "angle-jack" models, a welcome improvement from the oddly-recessed phone port on the old iPhone.

The software on the new touch is also improved, though you can get the upgrade for the older touch or the iPhone. Basically, you get the odd-but-strangely-good Genius feature seen also on the iPod nano and the new iTunes, and a bunch of crashes that would have happened on the older 2.0 firmware won't on this one. Comparing apples-to-apples, or nearly so, the lightweight new-gen iPod touch also played games smoother than my 2G iPhone, which is still running

Non-Geek of the Week

...Mikaela Murphy, Freshman: Biochemical Engineering

Alyssa Volk
Staff Writer

[Oredigger] In comparison to the majority of CSM, do you consider yourself a geek?

[Murphy] I'm not exactly a geek, but everyone at Mines has a couple of nerdy tendencies or they wouldn't be here! I study hard, but I also have a lot of fun. That does not include videogames or D&D. I'm not afraid to talk or get to know people, which makes me less geeky... I hope!

Why did you choose to attend CSM?

I enjoy math and science classes and wanted to pursue a degree in engineering. Also, I wanted to stay in-state and go to a relatively small school. Not to mention, I like the four to one gender ratio. It has to be the best ratio in the state!

What do you think about the 4:1 guy-girl ratio?

The ratio isn't as apparent as I thought it would be. Mostly, I think the few girls that are here are pretty much normal. There is more of a one-to-two ratio for kids who socialize. Okay, maybe that is a little exaggerated!

What do you enjoy most about the school?

I love the town of Golden and all of the outdoor activities available:

tubing at Clear Creek, hiking, etc. I have met a lot of great people and love that it's a small school. I enjoy HardCORE at the Recreation Center, and watching how nerdy some kids at this school are.

How would you compare CSM to other schools in Colorado?

'Raging parties' at Mines are nothing like the parties at CU or CSU, but Mines kids still have a good time. We are smarter; however. We definitely don't have school spirit like CU or CSU. Also, guys here are way nicer than at other schools. I love that the majority of people here can carry an intelligent conversation. And I think it's funny the professors are even geekier than the majority of the students!

What is the geekiest thing you have seen or heard at CSM?

I have two stories. The first story happened the first week of school. I was walking to the Green Center and saw a group of people decked out in medieval gowns with swords. They were 'battling' each other. It was the Role Playing Club and I thought it was so funny because that is a stereotypical activity that a geeky Mines student would

do. The second story happened in math class. The teacher was lecturing and said 'look at the diagrams in chapter nine...I am not sure of the exact page number but...' and without my teacher even finishing his sentence, a kid behind me yelled out the exact page number. I'm pretty sure he had the entire chapter memorized!

Do you have any nicknames?

K'la. I don't have any cool nicknames though. I better get on that!

What is the craziest activity you have done since being at school?

Tubing at Clear Creek was a crazy activity... or watching the role playing team.

Did you play any sports in high school?

I ran cross country in high school.

What activities, clubs, or sports are you involved in at CSM?

I'm a member of Engineers without Borders and SWE. I also participate in HardCORE and yoga over at the Recreation Center.

What is your favorite weekend activity?



ALYSSA VOLK/OREDIGGER

Girl next door. Mikaela poses in front of the library bushes

tivity?

Partying, hanging out with friends, going to concerts...everything but videogames and trading cards.

What is your favorite movie?

Garden State, Fight Club, Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind. I have too many!

How do you spend your summers or free time?

I mostly work, but I love working out, having fun and doing plenty of outdoor activities!

Tell me something about yourself that few people know.

I am originally from Hawaii. And I'm a LEFTY.

ASCSM

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

There were two resolutions that came before the body Thursday evening. The first was Anant Pradhan's letter to Jacob Smith concerning pedestrian safety on campus. Once Pradhan finished reading the letter, the council began a lively discussion, shedding light on grammatical errors, typos, the accuracy of the map attached to the letter and a disagreement about the presence of a stop sign on the corner of 17th and Maple. Lisa Truong spoke up to move the meeting forward, "I'd like to move to vote on this now." The motion carried, and the resolution passed with no amendments or opposition.

The second resolution, from ASCSM Parliamentarian Charles Perko, was to commend Public Safety, the student body and CSM faculty for successfully hosting Senator Barack Obama's presidential campaign in Lockridge a few weeks ago. There was a delay over the correct spelling of the word "during" and the correct date. Once again, Truong moved to vote, an amendment was made and the resolution carried.

Duffy noted that Greg Wallingford and Nate Skinner, the respective At-large institution and At-large faculty representatives, turned in letters of resignation on Tuesday; ASCSM is currently seeking replacements for the two positions.

Students, faculty and community members are invited to attend the next ASCSM meeting, which will begin at 7 PM on Thursday October 9th. Stop by Ballrooms A and B to get a chance to win a \$25 *Barnes and Noble* gift card and see ASCSM in action.

FAC comedian

Anant Pradhan
Staff Writer

It was battle of the nerds at the Colorado School of Mines, as one lonely geophysics student heckled Dan Cummings at the Friday Afternoon Club on September 26, 2008. "This heckler, like most hecklers, was an idiot and [Dan] put him in his place very quickly," said CSM senior Elliott Dudley.

Before Dan could mock the guy, a few other audience members decided to laugh at the geophysics student, whose only response was a minor threat towards geology majors. This was only one example of the sometimes sad, but humorous environment of the FAC.

"The jokes were different from the ones I'm used to," said Ssenior Matt Hurliman. "Of course, there were the crass ones, but these were wittier." Many "of-age" students attend the FAC, for the dollar beers, which are served as an encouragement to go and unwind.

"My wife was an EE," Cummings said at one point, instantly connecting with electrical engineers and other students who understood the terminology. "It was like he was one of us," a student commented after the performance. To some degree, Cummings seemed to understand engineers, and his jokes catered perfectly to that theme.

The best bits revolved around a new wave of hallmark cards. From simple puns to open attacks, each line had its own element of entertainment. Unfortunately, the performance began to run long at the end. "I could have left about 20 minutes earlier," said Tim Stockhausen.

Indeed, the jokes did seem to run dry near the end, as evidenced by the handful of students that began to leave. Cummings closed strong and encouraged the audience to check out his YouTube videos.

While not the best FAC comedian, Dan Cummings did please the crowd. On more than one occasion the room was enveloped in applause. It seems fit that an individual who connects with engineers was able to make a crowd full of them burst into laughter.



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Geek of the Week

...Elliot Makuh, Junior: Electricl Engineering

Benjamin Johnson
Staff Writer

[Oredigger] Do you consider yourself a geek?

[Makuh] I feel like I am half geek. I go to Mines and do math and science and after all, I do go to Mines but I like to be outside and I don't like World of Warcraft.

What do you like to do outside?

I like hiking and biking and I really just love being in the outdoors.

What do you have against World of Warcraft?

Once me and my brother had our own private server, and a game that is meant to be played with lots of people is kinda boring with two people. Also, what is the point of running around in a fake world when you can run around in the real world?

Other than World of Warcraft, do you like anything else dealing with computers?

I really enjoy building computers and troubleshooting computer problems.

Describe what you mean by building computers.

I like to find the latest and greatest parts and put them into the computer myself. I like to have more control over what goes into my computer than what name brand computer vendors grant you.

Mac or PC?

PC, and definitely Linux if you are going to have a PC.

Why PC?

Macs work pretty well, but they

are stinkin' over-priced. I like the ability to customize the computer that I own.

What is your favorite aspect of Mines?

I like the people here because everyone here seems to be decently friendly and they seem to care about more than themselves.

What class is your favorite?

It is a toss-up between C++ and Physics 2 (the second time around).

Do you like your major? Why or why not?

I like the prospect of using solar power to help out third world countries or people less fortunate than I am.

What do you plan on doing with your degree?

I want to do humanitarian work; renewable energies have also been on my mind.

Do you have any hobbies?

I like playing foosball and like to play the violin and fiddling. I also like spending time with God.

What religion are you?

I consider myself a Christian; I strive to please the Lord through my thoughts and actions.

Do you go to a church around here, and if so which one?

I go to Applewood Baptist.

What is the difference between violin and fiddling?

Fiddling is a lot more free form, you don't have to play notes off the page- you can make it up. Classical is more about technique and sticking to a traditional form.

Do you have any advice for

the freshmen this year?

I would say try to be involved in something other than school because there is a lot more going on here besides homework and CAPA. There is also a lot more to life than just studying.

What would you do with a million dollars?

Well, that is far too many for me to have. I would probably donate all of it. I am a fan of supporting missions and underprivileged people because God definitely calls me to care for those in need. I am living fine off of what I have now. Although I guess I would buy something cool for my girlfriend too.

What made you choose Mines?

Well I only applied to two schools, CU Boulder and Mines, but I wasn't really attracted to the party school reputation of Boulder and Mines has a much better reputation in general, as far as engineering schools go.

If you were

stuck on a deserted, barren island and could have three items, what would they be?

I would bring my Bible, because I definitely need some good reading material. I would also bring some food and insulin goes in there too. Lastly, I would bring sunscreen because I would probably get sunburned real badly.

If you could choose a Geek of the Week, who would it be?

Ben Johnson would definitely be a good Geek of the Week candidate.



TIM WEILERT / OREDIGGER

The lighter side of war

Benjamin M. Weilert Staff Writer

It has been said that, "All's fair in love and war," which is why war can be a good satire subject. Since it is so incredibly depressing, poking fun at it can be a little risqué, but can also turn a sad situation into a funny one. Here are three movies that give humor to the travesty of war.

1. Duck Soup (1933)

As with most Marx Brothers films, *Duck Soup* relies heavily on puns, double entendres and slapstick humor. Groucho Marx portrays Rufus T. Firefly, who is wooing a wealthy widow to get enough money to solve Fredonia's financial problems and keep the country out of bankruptcy. When another ambassador of a neighboring country attempts to steal the widow's funds away, war breaks out. With a big song-and-dance number, Fredonia marches off to war. One of the great comedic masterpieces, *Duck Soup* drips with wit and sarcasm to the point of making war seem absolutely hilarious. Placed in the lower half of the American Film Institute's (AFI) top 100, *Duck Soup* is probably the best of the Marx Brothers' films.

2. Dr. Strangelove or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb (1964)

Quite possibly Stanley Kubrick's funniest movie, *Dr. Strangelove* gives a look into Cold War fears and paranoia. Peter Sellers gives not one, not two, but three amazing performances in this film, which is the first film for James Earl Jones. With both the Americans and the Russians armed to the teeth, all it takes is the craziness of General Jack D. Ripper (who is worried about the Russians putting fluoride in the water) to set off the destruction of the world. This movie is full of memorable scenes, most of which take place in the war room (where there's no fighting) and the unforgettable bomb-riding scene. Riding in the upper third of AFI's top 100 movies, *Dr. Strangelove* is a good movie for diehard fans of Stanley Kubrick and/or Peter Sellers.

3. M*A*S*H (1970)

Before it became a popular TV show with Alan Alda, *M*A*S*H* was a movie about a Mobile Army Surgical Hospital during the Korean War. *M*A*S*H* follows two captains (played by Donald Sutherland and Elliot Gould) who are great surgeons, but don't respond well to authority. The movie gives a view into the lives of the surgeons in a series of sketches. From a game of football against another unit, to hazing the new female officer, the audience gets a glimpse into what people did to pass the time and keep their minds off of the atrocities that were happening around them. Placed in the middle of AFI's top 100 movies, it deserves a watch for those who love the TV show, or anyone who wants a good laugh.

For Homework - See Tropic Thunder (2008)

Must See Movies:

Let the rascal out of its cage

White Rascal, Avery Brewing Co.

Akira Rattenbury
Staff Writer

The "White Rascal" fails to live up to its rascalpation roots. While

The wheat or "white"

beer genre is a well-

visited style in US

breweries, who wish to

pay homage to the un-

filtered tastes of their

European

brewing predecessors.

carbonation continues rolling up the glass. When sipped, however, the carbonation makes a pleasant tickle on the lips.

"It's basically

a sweeter Høegaarden," remarked fellow taster Hans Mueller on the more rounded and muted flavor of the beer. Texture and taste is refreshingly tangy with the yeast and malt mingling on the tongue with the unusual party of spices. The lack of a biting after-

taste aids drinkability, leading me to open a second to confirm my suspicions.

Best enjoyed on its own (without an orange slice), the beer does not play well with spicy foods, as subtle flavors will be washed out by the sweetness. A good contrast for the "Blue Moon" drinker, more adventurous souls should step up to some of Avery's more sinister brews such as their "IPA" or Belgian-styled golden ale, "Salvation."



Movie: Eagle Eye

Erin Stephens
Staff Writer

In his latest film, Director D.J. Caruso presents a thrilling and haunting new take on the universal fear of technology surpassing human control.

Eagle Eye is an exhilarating addition to today's action films. With Shia LeBeouf in the lead as copyboy Jerry Shaw, the film soars above the standards of 2008 and new heights for the film industry.

The movie opens with an attack on a possible terrorist suspect in the Middle East. The intelligence gathered on the identity of the target is sketchy, but still demands the President of the United States to take action. From the very beginning, *Eagle Eye* focuses on the theme of insufficient intelligence from the people in power.

The film then diverts into two separate story lines; one following Jerry Shaw (LeBeouf) and the other focusing on single mother Rachel Holloman (Michelle Monaghan). The two story lines fuse when an unidentified third party takes control of their lives. The only connection between Jerry and Rachel is that they have 'been activated.'

Shia LeBeouf's newly grown beard allows for racial ambiguity, deepening both the character and plot of Jerry Shaw. LeBeouf reinvents the comedy he is known for, humanizing the plight of Jerry and Rachel. *Eagle Eye* also explores the territory of how far a mother will go to protect her child, when Rachel is

given the choice of complying or of letting her son die.

The story line only thickens with the presence of an Air Force commander Zoe Perez (Rosario Dawson) and FBI agent (Billy Bob Thornton). As in most recent movies, the authorities only seem to bog matters down.

By keeping the audience in a state of complete confusion for the first half of the film, *Eagle Eye* diverts suspicion away from the ultimate enemy. The story depends on Jerry and Rachel's ability to get one step ahead of the unknown operator. Of course when the operator has the ability to control a car chase of epic proportions within the space of five minutes, the task seems rather daunting.

The film takes a liberal stance on both foreign and domestic policies, but when there is such confusion everywhere, it's hard to follow an article such as the Patriot Act to the letter. The scale of *Eagle Eye* is neither too insignificant nor too over the top. The film follows most of the laws of physics, allowing engineers to enjoy the film as much as anyone else.

Eagle Eye is a refreshing addition to the Fall 2008 lineup, worth all eight dollars to see.



Colorado's top classical performances

Jake Rezac
Staff Writer

The Boettcher Concert Hall roared with the applause of adoring fans. The Colorado Symphony Orchestra had just finished its performance of Gustav Mahler's Symphony No. 1, and although the concert-goers were dressed to the nines, their whoops and hollers were as deafening as those heard at rock concerts. After the ovation died down, and the crowd began to disperse from the hall, one middle-aged man intoned to anyone who could hear him, "that was quite possibly the best concert I've ever been to, in any genre of music."

This year (like years in the past), students at Mines have a unique opportunity to attend concerts just like the one described above. Because of a deal between Mines and the Colorado Symphony Orchestra, students are able to get \$5 tickets to a show, to almost any seat in the house. A student merely has to show up at the Boettcher Concert Hall the night of a concert, display his or her Blastercard to a ticket vendor, and ask for the best seat they can get. It is a wonderful deal; Mines students can receive \$70 tickets for \$5.

The CSO has a spectacular schedule for the rest of the year. Performances range from traditional Mozart Symphonies to world premieres. There are many highlights through-

out the season, appealing to a wide range of people. Some of the key performances are the following.

January 30th and 31st, Principle Guest Conductor Douglas Boyd will lead the CSO in a performance of Haydn's 6th Symphony and Mahler's Das Lied von der Erde.

Principle Conductor Jeffery Kahane will lead violinist Chee-Yun and the CSO in a performance of Prokofiev's Violin Concerto No. 2, with pieces by Stravinsky, Rachmaninoff,

and Tchaikovsky, on February 27th and 28th.

March 20th through 22nd, Associate Conductor Scott O'Neil will lead pianist Barry Douglas and the CSO in performances of Stravinsky's Symphony in Three Movements, Beethoven's 5th Piano Concerto, and a prelude by Puccini.

June 5th through 7th, Jeffery Kahane will lead the CSO

in a performance of Mahler's 2nd Symphony.

It's an exciting time for the Colorado Symphony Orchestra, with a cycle of all of Mahler's major orchestral works being performed over the next five or six years and a new concert hall in the works. Because of the deal with Mines, it is extremely accessible to students, and provides a wonderful boost of

culture to supplement students' studies of math and science.

The Boettcher Concert Hall is located in the Denver Performing Arts Complex at 1000 14th Street, Denver, CO. Concerts usually take place at 7:30 on Friday and Saturday nights and 2:30 on Sundays. For a complete listing of times and events, see <http://www.colorado-symphony.org/>.

Tips for the symphony

DO show up early. Not only will you be able to get better seats this way, but there is a pre-concert talk from 6:30-7:00 which is (almost always) elucidating, extremely interesting, and fun.

DO dress up. While you certainly don't have to wear a tuxedo or dress, most people in attendance are at least dressed in business casual attire. Anything less and you'll likely feel uncomfortable, and enjoy the concert less.

DO try to listen to some of the pieces ahead of time. While this isn't necessary for enjoyment, it certainly helps. This is because the first time you hear a piece (particularly if it's 20 minutes or longer) it can be hard to pay attention to the whole thing. However, with each listen, the notes become more familiar and it's easier to appreciate a work as a whole. www.classicalarchives.com/ has a large selection of Classical Music works, of which one can listen to up to 5 per day for free. If you can't listen, read the program notes before the symphony begins.

DON'T clap after each movement. Most pieces will have three (occasionally four) movements, and it's common practice to wait until the whole piece is over to begin your applause. If you're in doubt, look to the people around you to know when to clap.

DON'T fidget in your seat excessively. Many people like to "conduct" to themselves when they hear classical music or "play along" with a piano. While this is certainly fine in other settings, doing so at a concert is rude to those around you, and makes you look silly. Also, excessive coughing is very distracting to both those around you and the performers.

DON'T drive. Although there is a parking garage on 14th and Arapahoe in Denver, which serves the Concert Hall, it costs \$8 to park there, when you'll only be there for about 3 hours. Taking the bus from Cold Springs Park and Ride at 4th and Union Sts. in Lakewood to 16th and Market Sts. and walking, for example, is cheaper (and oftentimes faster). Make sure, however, to still arrive an hour or so before the concert starts. Taking the 6:00 AF from Cold Springs should be sufficient for this.



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Theory: defense wins games

Proof of CSM Women's Soccer

Elise Goggin
Staff Writer

Three weeks ago the women's soccer team announced their goal of becoming RMAC Champs. Now they are well into their season and the question is whether they are on track to accomplish this feat. The answer to that question is most definitely yes.

Right now the Lady Orediggers are sitting in third place in the RMAC with a conference record of 3-0-1, and an overall record of 4-2-2. If these figures don't say enough, the fact that the majority of these wins were shutouts elevates their success to an even greater degree. Other teams are finding it extremely hard to find the back of the net against our women. And while it takes eleven girls to create such a dominating defensive effort, credit must be given to Mines sophomore keeper, Brianna Schulze, who was named RMAC defensive player of the week on Sept. 16th. Schulze has

If these figures don't say enough, the fact that the majority of these wins were shutouts magnifies their success to an even greater degree

51 saves for the season, and the stats show that it is no easy feat to get the ball past her hands. Just ask Augustana College, Metro State, New Mexico Highlands, or Colorado Christian, who were all held scoreless against Mines this season.

The team was on a winning streak before this last weekend when they lost in single overtime to Midwestern State University 2-1. A goal in the 35th minute by MSU ignited the spark in CSM freshman Kayla Mitchell, who answered with a goal of her own just two minutes later. This was Mitchell's seventh goal of the season; enough to bump her up to third in the RMAC standings. MSU's winning goal came in the first overtime, when a foul in the box allowed the Mustangs to score on a penalty kick, ending the game. While

losses are never fun, this one was to an out of conference team so it won't play a tremendous role in the RMAC standings.

The women jump back into RMAC play this Friday, October 3 against UCCS at home. Then on Sunday the 5th they face off against the number one ranked team in the RMAC, CSU Pueblo. Wins this weekend would not only get the team back on the right track, but it could move them up in the rankings making them one step closer to that RMAC Championship that is calling their name.



LILY GIDDINGS/OREDIGGER

Run-and-gun Broncos challenge others to keep up

Matthew Pusard
Content Manager

The Denver Broncos are a one-dimensional team in a three-dimensional league. Most teams are trying to win games with a balanced attack on defense, offense, and sometimes even special teams, but with the Broncos, the challenge is clear: keep up or else.

Traditionally, the Broncos have let their strong running game open up opportunities with the passing game under Shanahan's reign, but this year, it's the other way around. Jay Cutler, in his third season, has amassed 914 yards and 8 touchdowns in 3 games. To put those numbers into context, Tom Brady had 887 yards and 10 TDs in the same span last season.

Meanwhile, Brandon Marshall leads the league in receptions and is second in yards through the first three games. The impressive part is that he managed to do this in one less game than every other receiver, due to his suspension. Much of that is due to his record-breaking performance against San Diego, hauling in 18 catches. Very few players are able to frustrate Pro Bowl CB Antonio Cromartie like Marshall did in week 2.

Cutler and Marshall teamed up to become this year's incarnation of Manning-to-Harrison or Brady-to-Moss and that is opening up a whole realm of possibilities - namely, winning in games where the team shouldn't have a chance.

The statistical analysis website Football Outsiders ranks the Denver defense 26th this season while their special teams are 28th. Their lone saving grace is the offense, ranked first in the league and over 10% better than the number two offense of the New York Giants.

This comes behind the number one offensive line in terms of pass blocking. The Broncos' O-line has

a unique mix of youth and experience. Their starting tackles have a combined total of one year of NFL experience while players closer to the middle are steadily more experienced. Center stalwart Tom Nalen is out for the season, and possibly done for his career, with knee problems, but Casey Wiegmann, formerly of the Kansas City Chiefs, has performed admirably in his stead.

This prolific passing game has steered the Broncos through some difficult games, but they still have room for improvement. They are much better in the first half, scoring 72 points in the first 30 minutes versus 42 after the half.

The offense has also stalled in delivering the knockout blow in games. Ed Hochuli may have kept the Broncos in the game against San Diego, but it wouldn't have come to that without a red zone interception thrown by Cutler just minutes before. And while Martin Gramatica's missed field goal may have been fortunate against New Orleans, it never would have

happened without Tony Schefler's red zone fumble.

Of course, just about anything would prove to be an improvement for the defense. The Broncos have focused on stopping the run while leaving quick receivers free to burn them.

The Broncos have playmakers in Champ Bailey, Elvis Dumervil, and DJ Williams (who saved the game for the Broncos by forcing the late field goal by New Orleans), but the team has to adopt a gameplan that will allow them to be effective.

As the team goes into week 5 against Tampa Bay, one thing remains apparent: this year's Broncos will not bore. They are running up the score, not because they want to humiliate other teams, but because they have to in order to win.

Traditionally, the Broncos have let their strong running game open up opportunities with the passing game under Shanahan's reign, but this year, it's the other way around

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Andrew Aschenbrenner
Opinion Columnist

Suddenly, it seems the United States government cares about reality. Last week, Republican Presidential candidate John McCain decided it was so important that he ditched his lagging campaign and went back to the Capitol. Congress is debating a \$700 billion plan to help out Wall Street, but this economic panic gripping Washington, D.C. has its root in the middle class. Of course, Congress isn't planning to help families. Imagine that!

It has been a huge debate in this election year over what exactly has caused the current troubles

with the economy. Was it Wall Street greed? Was it lack of regulation? Was it outdated or irresponsible oversight? Was it a combination of reasons? The blame is being passed around, but fault doesn't lie with any specific group of people or rules. It lies with a flawed philosophy.

A conclusion of why and who is at fault might be easy to come by if it weren't for the constant spin from the different factions of the government: the Republicans and Democrats in the House and Senate, the White House, the Treasury Department, Wall Street, and, seemingly always last and least in the debate, the average American.

Over the last week, the word

"bailout" has been tossed around constantly. Why bail anybody out? We are not socialists, despite recent indications from the Federal Reserve. If there is one common agreement in this mess, it is that people were irresponsible, and it is not the responsibility of government to save any entity from itself. However, it is undeniable that there is economic terror at this particular moment in time.

Let's briefly analyze a potential bailout, shall we? It all started when the treasonous Bush Administration, along with Treasury Secretary

Henry Paulson and Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke submitted a \$700 billion plan to Congress. It

proposed that Secretary Paulson would be given taxpayer money to buy bad assets from financial institutions, thereby increasing confidence in those institutions, and facilitating lending.

This plan is based on the acknowledged fact that the exchange of money is the lifeblood of any economy such as ours. It is certainly important to keep the economy moving and the U.S. government is the biggest spender in the world. But the plan as proposed was utterly flawed. It would have given supreme and uncheckable authority to Secretary Paulson. It was a ridiculous call for dumping taxpayer money without any prospect of controls or accountability. Thankfully, Congress

balked, and now they have been debating changes to the plan for nearly a week.

As I write this, the week has ended without any conclusive agreement on bailout legislation. Arguments have been made on executive pay, spending taxpayer money, oversight, regulation, and the "Main Street" economy. All are justified. What is infuriating is that we find ourselves in this situation.

Usually, when there is a hand in the cookie jar, someone realizes potential effects and does something about it. But not this time. Everyone was getting an inflated piece of cookie, and looked the other way.

The President of the United States, on Wednesday night, gave a speech threatening the country with collapse if his bailout deal is not passed soon. Yet another ploy at fear from the traitor-in-chief. Why is it always his way or the highway? Isn't there something better? Don't we realize that the foundation of this country is the consumer? If the consumer has no power, and the foundation crumbles, the rest of the nation collapses. Welcome to the new reality.

This brings me back to my point. Why bail anybody out? The only thing that will save our economy in its free-market state is a strengthening of the consumer. Since a blanket money giveaway is not an option, as it failed to do much

recently, the only way to do this is to put people back to work. What I am advocating has already been done with success in this country, albeit on a much larger scale.

What I am referring to is the New Deal, although certainly the current situation does not require the scale of the programs of President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Our unemployment now is a fraction of what it was then, and bank failures are comparatively nonexistent. However, people are paid less, lifestyle costs more, and the biggest spender in the world has a responsibility to its taxpayers.

The creation of government-works projects in the spirit of the New Deal would solve more than the economic problem in this country. We are still living off of New Deal-era infrastructure, and there seems to be no money or will to rebuild and reinforce those projects. There is no doubt in my mind that the biggest problem facing the United States is that our foundation, both physically and philosophically, is in danger.

Let me be clear: I am NOT advocating the creation of more

social programs, or the expansion of welfare, or even another New Deal. What I am advocating is putting people back to work doing jobs that aren't being done. The U.S. government is already the largest employer in the nation, and it is they who are in the best position to put people back to work. Privatization is great, but in reality it is just the insertion of a middleman. It costs taxpayers more.

There is no question that government has a responsibility to keep the economy running, and that responsibility goes hand-in-hand with protecting and supporting taxpayers. A bailout of Wall Street does not do that. In fact, it creates more problems. What person in their right mind would try to strengthen a building's foundation by adding more support to the upper stories?

A salvaging of the economy must start at the root. Taxpayers know this. And now it appears that while the government may be able to recognize economic reality at their level, they still have not acknowledged how gravity works. It is the job of government to be the framework. When the focus is only on the pinnacle, whatever is below falls apart.

Public Safety: bored and lonely?

Akira Rattenbury
Staff Writer

One aggravated assault, one case of arson and six burglaries made the 2007 list of non-drug and alcohol related crimes reported on the Public Safety website.

Zero sexual assaults, no murders (none in the last three years!), and no hate crimes were reported either. Awesome. Let's keep up the good work and keep looking out for each other. Let's also take a second to reflect on the factors influencing such low crime rates.

Was it the proactive patrol, crime and security awareness programs such as self defense classes and rape prevention classes (just wrapped up last weekend), which contributed the most?

Or is the answer a reflection of the more encompassing campus climate at Mines? No doubt, increased patrols and preventative measures played a critical role in maintaining such a safe campus, but I imagine the general student personality at the Colorado School of Mines was the biggest contributor.

CSM is home to some of the best and brightest in the nation. We work hard; we play hard, and most err on the cautious side to stay out of trouble from law enforcement. Typical college recklessness is missing from the campus. Sure, students are engaged in a host of cool activities, but most students maintain a below-

the-radar profile, quietly taking their punishment of courses with their eyes on the money prize once they leave Golden.

Spare the exceptional flare ups of binge drinking during E-Days, most rabble-rousing and collegiate stupidity occur as a subculture off-campus. Essentially, a large component of college life in America is missing and our "play by the rules" culture has effectively pushed "problem activities" off campus.

The void of illegal activity must drive Public Safety crazy. After all, they are trained to respond to bad situations and handle conflict. So how do they prove themselves at mild old CSM? By taking parking enforcement

and minor offences to a new level of robot-like precision, meticulousness, and efficiency.

Anecdotal claims about the absurdity of some ticketing practices abound. Just ask around. Double ticketing in the same day, ticketing when snow is covering painted sidewalks, speeding tickets for minor infractions at 2 in the morning... on and on. It was brought up at the first ASCSM meeting that tickets were even given to companies unloading their Career Fair set ups several weeks ago in no parking zone. Where is the reasonability?

Many students can cite one gripe or another with Public Safety, but can we really blame them for enforcing the rules? Of course, they

are just "doing their job" by enforcing state and Board of Trustees rules as they are handed down. But are there not more pressing concerns than enforcing the Draconian parking rules with such an iron fist? Probably not. Boredom and a desire to do a good job have bred our culture of overzealous enforcement.

Our campus is so safe and boring that one of the main tabs on the Public Safety website is a link to the campus skateboarding policy! We have so few major crimes that the only logical course is to better enforce the petty things. At least in Boulder the police can dust off the riot gear after football games and each Halloween to quell the angry mob of 'trustafarians' running around drunk.

A check of Facebook reveals an underground consortium of like-minded CSM students and alumni who express their dissatisfaction with Public Safety and components of the administration. Most share hilarious, albeit embellished, anecdotes of overzealous Public Safety officers taking their jobs a little too seriously (gun pulled on "shady" students in ninja costumes around Halloween, anyone?).

This should not marginalize the need for peace officers to be prepared according to their training, but reality rarely fits the case. We're engineering ninjas, harmless without an Xbox or TI-83.

Therefore, I have several modest proposals.

Police are our public servants, paid for by our tax dollars. As their employer through the Board of Trustees, we should hold them accountable when they make mistakes or behave unprofessionally. I suggest students with issues approach ASCSM to seek better oversight. In fact, students who feel violated need to take their comments up with the Board of Trustees as they are the "ultimo hombres" charged with approving and setting the rules governing our schools drug, alcohol, parking and skateboarding policies.

To Public Safety, it's a deep affront to your own professionalism to treat minor infractions and traffic stops like students are petty thugs up to no good. We like to have fun, so give us our space. We are stressed about classes, give us a break when we park a little outside the line in the morning. Victimless crimes should be handled with a higher level of civility.

To the students, in this one-horse town where the stoplights start flashing at 9 o'clock, the two on-duty officers may respond to some complaints, pour out some booze, issue citations, but they won't see an organized uprising for whatever it is CU Boulder students riot about. If you want more lax enforcement of petty crimes, start raising some

We work hard; we play hard, and most err on the cautious side to stay out of trouble from law enforcement

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Presidential Debates



Conservative

William Everson
Staff Writer

Like two rabid wolves vying for dominance, Senators John McCain and Barack Obama ferociously berated each other Friday night in one of the most vicious Presidential debates in modern history. The air in the University of Mississippi ran hot with polemics as the Presidential candidates debated on the issues from the current financial crisis and American foreign policy.

Sen. McCain exhibited the qualities of a cool, calculating, knowledgeable debater, arguing calmly despite Sen. Obama's repeated interruptions. Contrastingly, Sen. Obama was loud and outspoken, almost pushy at times. He launched an unrelenting assault against the Arizona Senator; likening him to President Bush in every way.

Despite being considered generally ineffective during the Presidential primary debates, Sen. Obama held his own against Sen. McCain. It appears he spent a considerable amount of time preparing for the debate, and it paid off.

The first half of the debate was primarily focused on the events of this past week in the financial markets. Sen. McCain's and Sen. Obama's plans to bailout the struggling financial institutions were almost identical, but their responses when asked how they would prevent future crises were notably different.

Sen. McCain believes that by lowering taxes on everyone (all individuals and businesses) and drastically cutting governmental spending, future economic crises can be averted or mitigated. He also heavily emphasized eliminating "earmarks and pork-barrel spending" as a method for reducing governmental spending and corruption. This plan is a sound method to ensure economic prosperity.

Sen. Obama on the other hand, believes that heavy regulation, tax breaks for everyone earning less than 250,000 dollars a year, and tax increases for businesses and wealthy individuals will solve future economic problems. He claims "this notion that ... the less regulation we have, the better off we're going to be" is just not true. Apparently, Sen. Obama believes that governmental regulations do not hurt businesses; this could be no further from the truth. More governmental regulation stifles entrepre-

neurship, and does little to increase it.

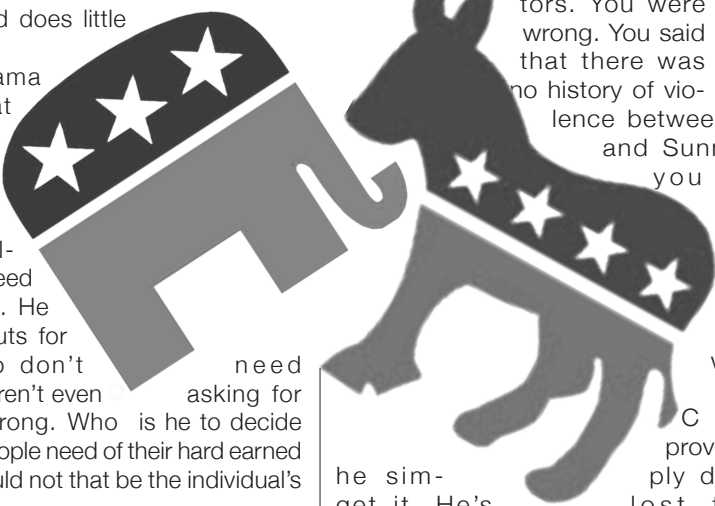
Sen. Obama believes that modestly wealthy individuals (income $\geq$ 250,000 dollars) do not need a tax breaks. He says: "Tax cuts for people who don't need them and weren't even asking for them" are wrong. Who is he to decide how much people need of their hard earned money – should not that be the individual's decision?

The second half of the debate focused on foreign policy issues. This half of the debate was where the candidates really differentiated themselves. When it came to the issue of the Middle East, the Senators had vastly different views about how this problem should be solved.

On the issue of the Middle East, Sen. Obama believes that Al-Qaeda is the real threat, not tyrannical dictatorships like Iran and previously Iraq. Despite Gen. Petraeus's warning that leaving Iraq now would prove disastrous, Sen. Obama proposes a timed withdrawal from the country. Regardless of the ramifications, he supports this withdrawal, believing that instability in Iraq would not prove detrimental to the region.

Conversely, Sen. McCain sees the conflict in Iraq as an integral part of the stability in the Middle East. He claimed that failure in Iraq would lead to an Al-Qaeda stronghold in the region, one that would destabilize the Middle East.

The first Presidential debate proved to be a lively and frightening affair. The atmosphere of debate was more prevalent here than in many previous Presidential debates, with the candidates debating the issues and not merely answering questions. It was welcomed. Overall, both candidates preformed well. If the fervor of this event is any indication, we should all be looking forward to the next Presidential debate.



Liberal

Michael Rose
Staff Writer

According to polls of uncommitted voters showed that 40% of viewers thought that Barack Obama won the debate, 22% thought that John McCain won and 38% thought it to be a draw. Another poll found Obama to be leading 51% to 38% in the debate.

Overall, I was quite disappointed in the debate. Both Senator McCain and Senator Obama put on a poor show for the nation. However, it felt to me to be a resounding win for Senator Barack Obama. Obama, despite his lack of experience in foreign policy, repeatedly shot down Senator McCain's "more experienced" opinion on foreign policy.

Quoting Senator Obama, "When the war started you said it was quick and easy, you said we knew where the weapons of mass destruction were. You were wrong. You said that we were going to be greeted as liberators. You were wrong. You said that there was no history of violence between Shia and Sunni and you were wrong."

McCain proved that he simply doesn't get it. He's lost touch with reality. Senator Obama said many times, "That's not true, John," and proved it. What does this mean for John McCain? Does he really bring the foreign policy experience he repeatedly

states he's had? Quoting McCain, "But the important thing is -- the important thing is I visited Afghanistan and I traveled to Waziristan and I traveled to these places and I know what our security requirements are. I know what our needs are."

Does John McCain really? Personally, it sounded as if he only had an abstract view of the situation, and really didn't understand. In addition, he frequently took words and phrases out of context in an attempt to attack Senator Obama.

There were a number of cheap shots on both sides. One that struck me the most was when Senator McCain talked about a woman at a town hall meeting who stood up and asked him to wear her son's bracelet. "And then she said, 'But, Senator McCain, I want you to do every-

"You said we knew where the weapons of mass destruction were. You were wrong. You said that we were going to be greeted as liberators. You were wrong."

thing -- promise me one thing, that you'll do everything in your power to make sure that my son's death was not in vain.' "

Senator Obama responded with a similar story. "Jim, let me just make a point. I've got a bracelet, too from Sergeant - from the mother of Sergeant Ryan David Jopeck. She asked me, 'can you please make sure another mother is not going through what I'm going through.' "

Something I found particularly interesting that I only noticed later in photos was that, while Senator Obama wore a flag pin, Senator McCain did not. Is it the democrats' turn to cry foul on John McCain's status as a true American?

The next debate between John McCain and Barack Obama will be interesting to behold. I for one personally look forward to seeing the blows they trade next.

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ALL PHOTOS COURTESY WIKIMEDIA

Let the children drink

Why we should lower the drinking age

Michael Rose
Staff Writer

Underage drinking is a large problem for much of the United States. People under the age of 21 everywhere are drinking alcohol. College freshmen are found trashed – high school students, too. Underage drinking parties are the norm rather than the exception. But does it have to be?

You can't forget the truism that defines the human race: The more forbidden it is, the more attractive.

I liken it to the story of Adam and Eve. God told Adam and Eve that the apples on the trees were forbidden, so Eve was tempted and ate an apple. However, if God had told them, "Sure, you can eat the apples, but you'll get hives for weeks," I don't think they'd have had the temptation to eat the forbidden fruit in the first place.

Students will drink. That's all there is to it. By making it law to limit this to those 21 and older, it simply encourages binge drinking. The thought is, who knows when



ZACH AMAN / OREDIGGER

you'll have it next, so drink up, and hey, where's that beer funnel?

We, as citizens of the United States, are trusted with almost everything when we turn 18. We can sign for ourselves, we're liable for our actions, we

can hold jobs and go to post-secondary school. We are adults. We're trusted with ultimate control over our lives. We're even allowed to join the military and defend our country. How does this sound right to you? Young Americans can see utter horror of war, place themselves in harm's way, and even take lives in service of our country... but they can't get a drink when they return to their home soil?

There are soldiers out there, nineteen years old. Perhaps they're missing a leg. An arm. Maybe they'll have injuries for the rest of their lives. But can they go to the bar and get a drink? No. They're told, "grow up some more and come back." I'm not sure what kind of growing up can be done after a 'trial by fire' on the battle-

field. I wonder if Colorado would change the drinking age to 18... if they weren't blatantly blackmailed into leaving it at 21. The federal government does not set the drinking age. What the federal government does is withhold 10% of federal highway funding to states that do not follow the age set by the NMDA, the National Minimum Drinking Age Act.

Over one hundred college presidents are for lowering the drinking age to reduce binge drinking. Are they wrong? Speaking from the left of the age line, I would think they have the right idea in reducing dangerous levels of alcohol intake. But I can see it from other points of view as well. While many in the Colorado School of Mines classes of 2012 and 2011 would be mature enough to handle such a responsibility, I can't help but wonder if this privilege would be abused to its limits by many under the age of 21. In an ideal world, there would be no alcohol, but our world is far from ideal. We have to work with what we have. Perhaps at first, the effects would be negative, but it is my opinion that the long-run consequences would be positive in nature.

You decide. If you have any comments or responses to my article, please feel free to email me at mirose@mines.edu. Hate mail is accepted.

The more forbidden it is, the more attractive

His main idea for companies is to help small businesses grow and to encourage job creation in America

Obama's tax plan is classified into three large parts. They are about households, companies and fiscal responsibility.

The first plan is related to households. His main idea is to broaden middle class tax relief. His plan is to provide a refundable tax cut of \$500 for workers or \$1,000 for working couples and a package of tax cuts to help families afford health care, college and save for retirement. And he said he has made a firm commitment not to raise any taxes for families making under \$250,000 per year.

The second plan is related to companies. His main idea for companies is to help small businesses grow and to encourage job creation in America. His plan is eliminating capital gains taxes for entrepreneurs and investors in small business and cutting corporate tax rates for firms that create jobs in America. And also he's going to offer a small business healthcare tax credit and make the R&D tax credit permanent.

The third plan is about fiscal responsibility. His main idea for

Obama's taxation plan

JeongWoo You
Guest Writer

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News organizations say Obama's plans add up and are more fiscally responsible than McCain's. According to The Wall Street Journal, Obama's national finance budget is at least \$150 to \$250 billion more responsible annually than McCain's budget. And according to *The Boston Globe*, Obama has been clearer and politically braver in showing how he would pay for his proposals than McCain.

fiscal responsibility is to cut taxes lower than the level under Ronald Reagan's administration while restoring fiscal responsibility like closing of corporate loopholes. Obama's tax cuts for middle class families are larger than his tax changes for high-income families, cutting taxes below 18.2 percent of the economy – the level that prevailed under President Reagan by making choices like ending the war in Iraq responsibly, limiting payments to high-income farmers, cutting subsidies for private plans in Medicare, reforming student loans, and phasing out unnecessary and duplicative programs.

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Letter to the Editor

I was deeply disheartened and disappointed after reading Roger Ballenger's "Letter to the Editor" (9/22/08). In a time where our economy is headed toward recession and the continuing conflict in Iraq has deteriorated what is left of American pride and dignity, Mr. Ballenger chooses to evoke the rather trivial matter of abortion. Relative to other complications facing our nation, abortion should hold little, if any, ground in candidate selection. Politicians, particularly potential presidential candidates, must be prepared and equipped to handle a myriad of topics ranging from establishing a fortified foreign policy to ensuring domestic growth and prosperity. How is it, then, that a candidate should be judged purely based off a single issue? Must we as a nation of free voters focus our attention, time, and energy on arguments that hold little ground? It concerns me to hear people like Mr. Ballenger argue the so-called ethics involved in abortion when this is an opportune moment to unite, liberals and conservatives, in repairing our economy and restoring dignity to the American name. There will always exist opposing perspectives to abortion; bickering over these points will only divide us further. It is time to forget our differences on inconsequential matters and converge on significant affairs. Taking the stance of Mr. Ballenger's single-issue argument only results in a population of uneducated voters who cannot see beyond their own ignorance. I, as a dutiful American citizen, believe this country deserves better.

Joseph Whang

Political "Real Speak"

Unraveling the first presidential debate

Matthew Pusard
Content Manager

It's been a crazy week politically. John McCain suspended his campaign temporarily and was undecided on coming to the debate until the day of the debate. The \$700 billion bailout has been back and forth all week too. But, in the end, the debate went on as planned. Sometimes the candidates flat out avoided answering the questions and other times, they threw out some questionable facts. Here are some of the most notable facts that McCain and Obama argued.

True-Henry Kissinger supports having open talks with

Iran without precondition

The former U.S. Secretary of State is on record as saying that the US should talk with Iran about its nuclear enrichment program "without conditions."¹ He favors doing it on a "secretary of state level", not on the presidential scale.²

False-McCain said he would not meet with the prime minister of Spain

McCain never said he would not meet with Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero. Rather, he kept dodging questions about whether or not he would speak with the socialist leader of the NATO ally.³ In the past, McCain has made conflicting statements on whether he would have normalized or cooled relations

with Prime Minister Zapatero.⁴

False-Dwight Eisenhower offered his resignation in case the invasion of Normandy was a failure

The story McCain told at the debate was that Eisenhower penned two letters before D-Day, one in case of success and the other in case of failure. This part is true. The National Archives have Eisenhower's letter in case of failure online.⁵ It takes responsibility for failure, but does not offer up his resignation.

False - Obama has voted to raise taxes on people earning \$42,000

When Obama and McCain sparred on their tax plans, McCain brought up the claim that Obama once voted to increase taxes on people making \$42,000 and more.

It is of note that Obama has not necessarily received all of that money and that he has suspended requests for earmarks during his campaign.

In actuality, Obama voted on a non-binding resolution to repeal the Bush tax cuts.⁶ This vote was a budget resolution which established policy and was never a threat to actually raise taxes.

True - Obama has asked for \$932 million in earmarks

Obama has all of the earmarks he has requested listed in detail on his website.⁷ It is a lengthy page and does add up to \$931.3 million.⁸ It is of note that Obama has not necessarily received all of that money and that he has suspended requests for earmarks during his campaign.

1. http://www.redorbit.com/news/politics/1557149/kissinger_open_direct_iran_talks/index.html
2. <http://blogs.abcnews.com/politicalradar/2008/09/fact-check-kiss.html>
3. http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080918/ap_on_el_pr/eu_spain_mccain
4. http://voices.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2008/09/18/mccain_slights_spanish_prime_m.html
5. <http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/d-day-message/images/failure-message.gif>
6. <http://politifact.com/truth-o-meter/statements/742/>
7. http://answercenter.barackobama.com/cgi-bin/barackobama.cfg/php/enduser/std_adp.php?p_faqid=172&p_created=1205426026&p_sid=TNlxoC-i&p_accessibility=0&p_redirect=&p_lva=&p_sp=cF9zcmNoPTEmcF9zb3J0X2J5PSZwX2dyaWRzb3J0PSZwX3Jvd19jbjQ9MSwXJnBfCHJvZHM9JnBfY2F0cz
8. <http://politifact.com/truth-o-meter/statements/743/>



Throw out your geeky t-shirts day

Janeen Neri
Cottonista

A relatively little-known – and equally little-loved – holiday is coming up this Friday: Throw Out Your Geeky T-shirts Day. When asked if they knew about this holiday, most students were glum, but honest. “Yeah, I know. It’s supposed to help us become more ‘normal’ or ‘mature’ or something,” said sophomore Garry Trumkin. “I’ve tried celebrating it before, but I always end up breaking down in tears by the end of the day. How can I ever throw out my periodic table shirt, or my cow pi shirt, or... no... no... I can’t even bear to think of my ‘I reject your reality and substitute my own’ shirt.” At this point, Trumkin began to bawl. Meghan Bentley had a similar take. “I can’t believe someone would come up with a holiday like this! What kind of sadistic mastermind came up with it? Do they torture little poodle

puppies too?”

CSM staff and faculty saw things differently. Paul Georges, a janitor, said, “The main problem I have with it is that the cleanup is enormous. We have to call the garbage guys in an extra time [the week of October 3] because the dumpsters overload. It’s crazy even though only a few brave people celebrate it.”

On the other hand, the professors see the holiday is a source of glee. “I know it’s kind of mean,” said physics professor Harold Nitti, “but a lot of us actually tell our students that they can have the day off if they celebrate it. This way, we can *seem* nice but in practice we still keep our status as the school with the fewest holidays in the country.” Chemistry professor Gib-



LILY GIDDINGS/OREDIGGER

son Smelting added, “Not only do I offer an excused absence, but I also offer 5 points extra exam credit if they burn the shirts in front of the class and write a report on the combustion of cotton. I think that demo would be more exciting and nerve-wracking than any explosion.” So far, however, both professors admit that no students have taken them up on their offers. Meanwhile, the campus bookstore plans to do excellent business this Saturday, when they will be stocking a special supply of geeky t-shirts. “I love this holiday,” said cashier David Urman, “I love putting the smiles back on all their faces and getting money for it!”

CSM’s missile silo

The climbing wall’s secret

Cameron Frisby
Baffled Climber

Presidential-hopeful Barack Obama’s visit to Mines exposed more than just political tensions among the student body, the Secret Service revealed our school’s latest dirty trick. Dead-set on securing the Student Recreation Center before the senator arrived, a team of crack investigators descended upon campus a full week before the scheduled visit. After a clean sweep of the Rec Center, the team was on the verge of taking lunch and heading down to Woody’s when they noticed a strange leak. During the week of rain and misery, a leak had developed above the climbing wall that caught their attention. Unlike the building’s other leaks, this one was not due to low-quality construction and deteriorating components. Upon closer inspection, the leak above the wall turned out to be a massive access hatch that had not been completely shut. Usually a place of fun, chalk and grunting, the climbing wall was suddenly under a massive investigation by the federal organization. The agents entered the main section of the wall and found a small control room linked to a fifteen-foot surface to air rocket system. They also found a collection of stuffed animals, which made

them very confused. Needless to say, the Secret Service freaked out. The director of the Outdoor Recreation Center, the part of the Athletics Department that runs the wall, was quickly taken away to a CIA interrogation center where he was brutally tortured for days until they realized that this conspiracy went much, much deeper. While the director was “under investigation”, a clandestine group of FBI operatives infiltrated Mines and found twelve similar missiles scattered throughout the campus. Twenty years ago, a Physics professor made a recommendation to the Department of Defense that would create an efficient and effective missile defense system. This professor, whose name I cannot release due to a small electrode they implanted in my brain, got snubbed. The contract for the system went to CU Boulder, and that did not go down so well. Over the past two decades this professor has secretly been installing his own missiles in every new building on campus (the CTLM has four!).

The Secret Service raided Meyer Hall and successfully flushed our

doomsday professor from the bowels of the building; they also found a couple of grad students that had been declared dead three years ago. His plan involved a direct strike against the CU-Boulder campus; a retaliatory attack would be nullified by his perfected missile defense system. After the shock of the initial arrests and public beatings wore off, President Scoggins announced that the missiles would be retrofitted for E-Days to accompany the fireworks show. There’s nothing like years of research and millions of dollars of equipment being blown sky-high for the enjoyment of drunken students. Oh, Mines, what secret will you share with us next?



COURTESY WIKIMEDIA COMMONS
DIE CU

Homecoming cancelled!

Benjamin M. Weilert
Stick-arounder

An announcement made by the Mines Activity Council during last Thursday’s movie stated that the 2008 Homecoming for the Colorado School of Mines will be cancelled. Turns out, no one leaves. Jessica Bowser, MAC president, had this to say, “It’s sad really, but we can’t have a Homecoming if no one ever leaves.” This decision was brought on by the results of a recent survey by CSM. The survey of the student body revealed that no one ever leaves this school. “I graduated last spring with a bunch of my friends, but now that I’m back at grad school, I see they also decided to stay,” remarked grad student, S. Martin Pantz. Of the undergraduate students who participated in the spring commencement, 100% of them returned to further their studies towards Masters Degrees. The Masters students continued on to Doctorate work, and the PhDs became professors. Professors obtain tenure and/or die of old age or freak chalk/chalkboard accidents. There was also an interesting abnormality discovered in the study with regards to students who have obtained the coveted “undergraduate tenure.” Most of the undergraduates who have spent more than ten years at Mines will end up getting multiple degrees. In fact, a very select society of people has emerged. This society is called “The boiling point club”, and

ciety, Ben Hieralot, age 98. “Of course, it takes time to get this many degrees,” he admitted. The only reason that Mines has not experienced exponential growth is due to the early drop out rate. Many of the incoming freshmen each year fail to pass a single class, and decide to pursue education elsewhere. Dean Bob “Guzzler” Sinclair commented on this dilemma, “If someone can’t pass Calculus I after three tries, we don’t want them here anyway.” These students who dropped out of Mines would be the only ones who would attend Homecoming, since everyone else is still here. When told that he was one of the few people invited to the CSM homecoming, escapee Philip R. Upp remarked, “Considering that I had to get through an electrified razor wire fence, keep out of sight of the watchtowers, run from genetically altered dogs and the robotics club’s creations just to leave Mines, what makes you think I’d want to come back?” As of Thursday’s announcement, all activities have been cancelled for the weekend of October 4th. The theme this year was going to be “Miner League Sports”, which means that most of the activities had to do with league sports that Miners would have played. Dynamite toss, shaft digging and powder puff football were just some of the themed activities that were cancelled. “Hopefully this won’t happen again next year, but I have a sneaking suspicion it will,” said Bowser.



BENJAMIN M. WEILERT/OREDIGGER

Fool's Gold Top Ten

Top 10 rejected homecoming themes

10. E-Days 2: Electric Boogaloo
9. That one weekend in the fall that stuff happens and the computer lab is empty so I can get some work done without being bothered
8. Golddigging
7. C:\home\away>cd ..
6. MmmmMMMMMMMMmmmmmm . . .
5. School Spirits and Wine
4. Hide and Secant
3. Getting Mine Shafted
2. Octagontoberfest
1. A Flat Miner

-Benjamin M. Weilert